

10 November 1999

Congressional Report, Wednesday, November 10 (Moseley-Braun approved) (260)

Date: 19991110

Text: Senate Confirms Moseley-Braun for New Zealand Post by 96-2 Vote

The U.S. Senate has confirmed former Senator Carol Moseley-Braun to be the United States' new ambassador to New Zealand.

Moseley-Braun was approved for the post November 10 by an overwhelming vote of 96-2.

Democrats voted unanimously in favor of President Clinton's nominee and only two Republicans voted against her: Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, a longtime Senate adversary, and Senator Peter Fitzgerald of Illinois, her opponent in her unsuccessful 1998 bid for a second Senate term. Senators John Kyl and John McCain, both Arizona Republicans, failed to vote.

Moseley-Braun, the only black woman ever elected to the Senate, will serve simultaneously as ambassador to Samoa.

Helms had held up Senate approval, accusing the Clinton administration of helping Moseley-Braun in "a successful cover-up of serious ethical wrongdoing." He relented when it became clear her appointment was supported by the Senate Republican leadership as well as most of the rest of the chamber.

Clinton welcomed her confirmation with a statement in which he said that "the Senate's overwhelming bipartisan vote is a strong endorsement of her outstanding experience and credentials for this position."

With adjournment for the year drawing close, the Senate still has not acted on a number of other ambassadorial appointments by the president — proposed envoys to countries including China, South Africa, Israel, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, the Slovak Republic and the Philippines.

(Distributed by the Office of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State) NNNN